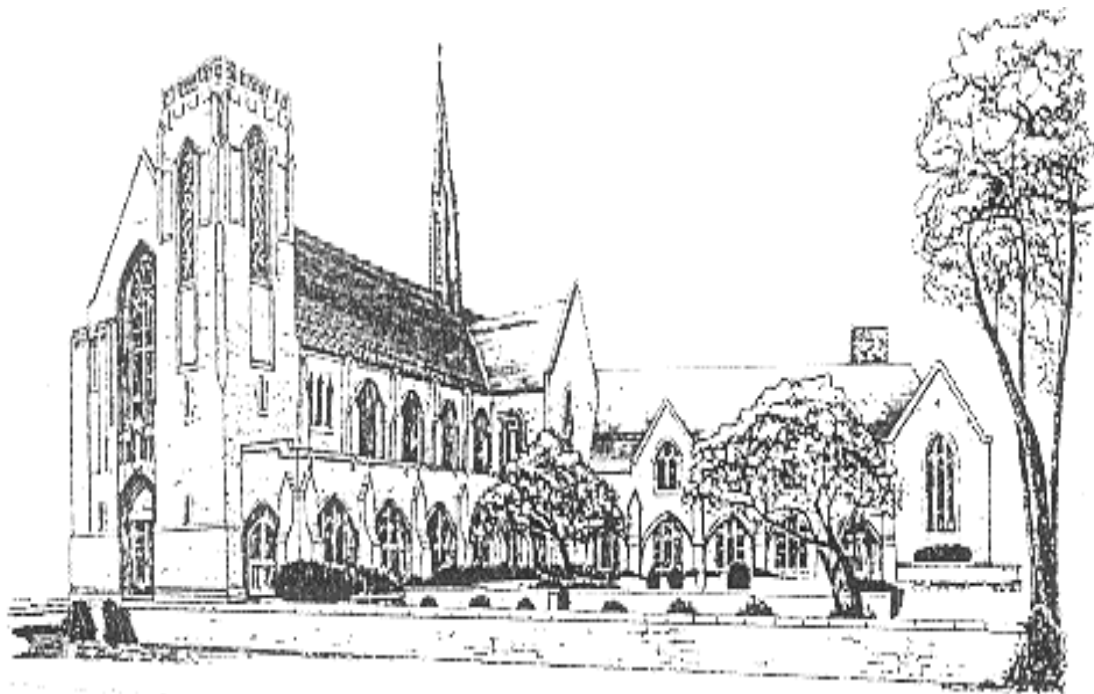


Christ Church Grosse Pointe

The Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2009

The Rev. Bradford G. Whitaker, Rector



Christ Church Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Appointments by the Chair

Secretary—Susan Larsen

Teller—Gerhard Heinen

Report of Nominating Committee

The First Ballot

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Acknowledgement of Written Reports

Report of the Treasurer

Report of the Senior Warden

Address of the Rector

Other Reports as called upon by the Chair

Report of the Tellers

Adjournment of Meeting

Closing Prayer

Mission

The mission of Christ Church Grosse Pointe is to bring God and people together to know and live the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Adopted 1999.

Vision

A beacon of God's love, Christ Church Grosse Pointe is a welcoming, compassionate and inclusive community overflowing with activity seven days a week. People of all ages and from all walks of life flock to this Christian center and become involved in its life, finding themselves spiritually nourished, educationally enriched, and empowered to serve as they live the Gospel joyfully. Christ Church embraces growth, serving the needs of today's and tomorrow's generations while maintaining the glories of its Anglican worship and traditions.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT, FOR JANUARY 25, 2009

The mission of Christ Church Grosse Pointe is to bring God and people together to know and live the Good News of Jesus Christ.

2008 was a year of contrast as we worked together to live our mission in the face of increasing challenges that vied for our time. The Vestry began its year with a two-day retreat during which we talked about growing our congregation, our financial base and, most important, our spiritual experience. We began to re-form into one body as we welcomed new Vestry members and staff; it was Lisa Flores and Scott Hanoian's first Vestry retreat at Christ Church. And, we wrote a Vestry Covenant to help build trusting relationships and guide our future dealings with each other.

All year the theme of a vision-based, mission-centered community of Christ ran through our life together. We were off and running with a Mardi Gras celebration when Lent came earlier than ever. Lisa Flores' Children's Lenten Service on Ash Wednesday began forty days of reflection and preparation. Purple Perspectives explored "Faith and Politics: How the Two Intersect in American Culture and Media." The series culminated with a Sweeny Memorial Lecture featuring Diane Rehm of NPR fame. Five-hundred people attended and experienced CCGP hospitality. Our worship together during Holy Week and Easter is always poignant, solemn and joyful. Our faith is one of contrasts.

The fifty days of Easter finished off when Bishop Gibbs celebrated The Feast of Pentecost to a packed church decked out in red, as we welcomed the newly confirmed and reaffirmed our faith with joy and thanksgiving for God's abundant gifts. And, of course, there was strawberry shortcake for all.

Brad left on a sabbatical of reconciliation and renewal. He walked, and thought, and prayed, and wrote blogs from Scotland and Burundi; and, we were eager to hear from him. We welcomed him home in August and, miracles of miracles, kept a secret for a month and surprised him with a Peace Pole on the International Day of Peace. It declares "Let Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, French, Gaelic, Kirundi, Greek and Aramaic. Indeed.

We had a spectacular St. Francis Day Blessing of the Pets; God was good to us and gave us a perfectly beautiful day. There was a different joyful noise that included lots of barking, meowing, and even the braying of a donkey. A few weeks later, on a frigid day, once again we were on the front lawn. This time we stood together behind a banner that read, "We respect the dignity of all people" as we responded to the threat of protest by the Westboro Baptist Church who came from Kansas to object to GPSHS Pointe Players' production of The Laramie Project.

Advent brought us a rich opportunity to worship together: Lessons & Carols, the Advent Procession, the Christmas Pageant, the procession of the Crèche, and of course the other beautiful services on Christmas Eve – all awaiting the birth of our Lord. We watched as the Wise Men make their way to the manger and once again broke bread together on Twelfth Night, gathering for an Epiphany Procession, an Ethnic Festival Pot luck and All Nations Show and Tell.

As the country went, so went Christ Church. In June, we first faced the fact that there would be no funds from our endowment this year, causing a significant deficit against our 2008 budget. The sad fact is that too much of what your leadership does is talk about money. The Vestry is responsible for the fiscal and physical well-being of the church, and we take this charge very seriously. And so we talked at length about our situation and worked with the Finance Committee, Christ Church First, Buildings & Grounds, committee chairs and staff. We tightened our belts, cut spending, and put on hold much needed building maintenance projects. And sadly we postponed the hiring of a Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, which we had pursued with enthusiasm and expectation. We shared all this with the parish and appreciated the support we received for our efforts. The test of our mission is to be steadfast against harsh realities. We have strived to do this.

There were other business matters to take care of. We pondered changing the Vestry election process and bring our proposal to the parish at our All Parish Meeting this year. We continued our work with the Diocese on its Sexual Conduct Policy and adopted Guidelines Concerning Housing for Clergy. We finished the year with a balanced budget, thanks in part to a surplus from previous years that helped make up our shortfall. We worked hard on a 2009 budget. We could maintain what we are doing or make drastic changes. We needed \$120,000. Our first choice was to try to raise the funds. Christ Church First took on the task and reached out to thirteen generous and loving parishioners who set a matching challenge to the parish. We responded as we often do in difficult times, with support for one another and the ministries of the Church. There is no luxury in our 2009 budget; it is lean and it is responsible. And we are filled with gratitude for all who joined in this effort.

I have not mentioned individuals in my report. To do so would guarantee omissions. Instead I ask, “How do we sustain each other; care for one another; celebrate life together?” And I answer as follows: We weed and dust together. We worship, pray and study together. We make a joyful noise unto the Lord, and we play softball to win! We teach our children, and they teach us. We stitch comforting teddy bears, listen as Stephen Ministers, and help each other through times of difficult transitions. We set God’s table with reverence, surround it with beautiful flowers and offer healing prayers. We enlighten through the beauty of our stained glass windows and the sermons of our preachers. We walk to alleviate hunger and find a cure for cancer. We stage an antiques show for outreach, sell gifts and greens for Habitat, and play golf to tutor children at Bound Together East. We bless pets of every variety and we are going green to be good stewards of the earth. We support the cycle of life as we reaffirm our baptismal vows with the newly baptized, stand witness to the commitment of love between two people, watch our children become full members of the church at confirmation, and celebrate the lives of friends and loved ones who have died. We greet friends and strangers alike, usher folks to their seats, and make sure guests don’t leave without a welcome bag. We experience the Bible again for the first time, engage the Word, and have conversations about stewardship. We look outside our immediate parish family to embrace our partnership with Church of the Messiah in Detroit, feed the hungry at Crossroads, help hurricane Katrina survivors rebuild in New Orleans, and build wells in Malawi. Our youth group fed us breakfast and granted micro-loans through KIVA. We enjoy Soaring Sounds in Sacred Places and serve the Diocese in various ways. We come together on Tuesdays, have adventures on Wholly Wednesdays, and gather for prayer, silence and inner reflection on Thursdays. We meet in small groups, dine with our Foyer Groups, and worship together at 5:30, 8:00, 9:00 and 11:15. We do all of this and more. And, in all that we do, we are supported by a dedicated and faithful staff.

We are a community of faith, in relationship with God and Jesus Christ – and each other. We are rich in talent, spirit, and love. Thank you for all that you do and the promise of what is to come. I can’t wait to see what comes next.

Thanks be to God.

Betsy Reid Creedon

PARISH CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRIES

Carrie Sutton, Vestry Chair

The Rev. Lisa C. Flores, Staff Representative

Christian Formation took a dramatic turn in 2008. With the loss of two program staff in 2007, 2008 became a year of rebuilding. Our children's program is the area that has received the most growth over the last six months. Our enrollment for the 2008-2009 program year includes ninety-six children ages 0 through 5th Grade, with a 50% average attendance rate. Our nursery program is staffed by three workers, who offer childcare during our Sunday services and special weeknight events. Our Sunday School is broken down into two arenas: Godly Play and Episcopal Children's Curriculum (ECC). Our Godly Play program has seen the most change this year with the dedication of two classrooms on the second floor. Godly Play is experienced by the 3, 4, and 5 year olds and has seven parishioners leading as storytellers and doorkeepers. Our ECC program is experienced by our 1st through 5th graders and has fifteen parishioners leading as teachers and helpers.

Our youth program has not recovered from the program staff loss in 2007. Currently, we offer our youth formation opportunities on Sunday morning. We have eleven youth enrolled in our Junior High class that explores the Bible through multi-media studies. We have two parishioners leading as their teachers. Our Senior High class has twelve youth enrolled and is led by the Rector with discussion topics.

Our adult program has continued to provide quality opportunities for adult learners in this parish. We had a very successful Purple Perspectives series during Lent focusing on faith and politics. Our Sweeny Memorial Lecture with Diane Rehm was well received and highly popular with the greater Detroit area. This fall we offered a number of different Sunday morning options which included small group discussions, a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark, and guest speakers in our Adult Forum.

Our Tuesdays Together program started off 2008 on a strong note. We used curriculum from The Thoughtful Christian to lead our adult program, while the children's program was incorporating drama, art, games, and scripture. After Lent, we had a successful music series led by Scott Hanoian and our Inquirer's Class for those seeking confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation. Our fall program was focused on the Marcus Borg book Experiencing the Bible Again for the First Time.

All of this work could not have happened without the many hands that volunteer their services. The Sunday School teachers, the Tuesdays Together facilitators, the Adult Formation Committee members, our Vestry liaison, and the clergy are all responsible for making Christian Formation happen at Christ Church. Thank you!

Subcommittees of Parish Christian Formation Ministries

Center for Spirituality

The Rev. Canon Ronald Spann, Director

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to help persons become fully alive.

Highlights/Assessments for the program year: Retreat in January to redefine the mission of the Christ Church Spirituality Center, and to identify program goals going into the future. The Rev. Canon Spann worked with the Lay Theological Academy to create a 2008 Calendar that also served as the 2008 Calendar for the Spirituality Center .

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are: Resumption of a calendar distinct from that of LTA, though still supporting and promoting the latter. Offerings will be distributed in activities led by The Rev. Canon Spann for the Institute for Ordinary Holiness, and for the Center's Everyday Spirituality Series.

List of ministry team/members and contact persons/chairs: The Rev. Canon Ronald Spann, director; Bob Alltop, Cabinet Chair; Allan Torp, bookkeeper; Richard Beadle, Denise Crenshaw, Sally Mackintosh, David Redfield, Jean Redfield.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were 100-110 hours.

The Cloister Bookshop

Penny Soby, Chair

The Cloister Bookshop uses its mission statement as a guide for book selection. We supply materials for Adult Formation classes, baptism resources for families, recordings of Christ Church events. Our CD collection includes The Organ Works of Johannes Brahms recorded by Scott Hanoian and a selection of other music from previous Christ Church concerts. In addition, we feature books recommended by clergy and selections for the Christ Church Book Club. Bibles, prayer books, hymnals, inspirational books, children's books, Anglican prayer beads, and reproductions of Christ Church

art are part of the offerings at the Bookshop. An order form is available on our web site.

The Virtual Bookshop which can be accessed by visiting <http://www.christchurchgp.org/cloisterbooks05.html> allows parishioners to explore the titles of books read by the Book Club or recommended by clergy and staff. There is also a notation whether the book is currently in the stock in the Cloister Bookshop. Special orders are welcome and filled quickly.

Also available is the Shared Book Shelf which is an opportunity to trade your previously read books for those you would like to read. We have exchanged more than 400 books this year. Check the Cloister before you go on vacation. These make good traveling books.

The web site www.christchurchgp.org/bookshop presents the newest books available through the Bookshop. Volunteers staff the bookshop Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday from 5 to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10:15 to 11 a.m.

The Bookshop Advisory Board meets bi-monthly on the third Wednesday.

High School Pizza Lunch

Ben Daume and The Rev. Lisa C. Flores, Coordinators

For the past nine years, Christ Church has provided pizza lunch for the students at Grosse Pointe South High School every Thursday that school is in session. The Church offers a hospitable and comfortable place for students to eat their lunch in a spiritual atmosphere. On average, our ministry team of volunteers reaches out to approximately 350 students weekly (plus or minus a few). Any extra money that is raised from the lunch goes to outreach. Our team devotes about two hours every week to this ministry and this includes set-up and clean-up. Team members are: Sheri Conway, Ben Daume, Sarah Eatherly-Marchi, The Rev. Lisa Flores, Judy Gilbert, Kirsti Juergens, Susan Heinen, Polly Ledyard, Mark Lorenger, George Port, Lori Varas.

Mothers of Preschoolers

Tracey Torosian, Chair

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is an international Christian organization that offers support and fellowship to moms with children ages birth through kindergarten. The aim is to provide a spiritual focus within which moms and their families can develop a supportive network with others in their community. Moms attend meetings to hear a speaker, engage in organized discussion, complete a creative activity, and connect with other moms in the same season of life. While the moms are meeting, their children are cared for by wonderful volunteers (shepherds) in the MOPPETS program. Children ages 2 and older are taught a Christian curriculum.

Highlights for the program year include inspirational offerings by our mentor mom, an exceptional speaker program, an informational and entertaining newsletter, discussion groups which promote a supportive atmosphere, functional and fun crafts, the addition of a teacher for our Moppets program Christian education, a bookshop ministry provided by Penny Soby, and our moms showing a wonderful amount of support for other moms in the program.

Ministry plans for the coming year include increasing our available shepherds so that we can allow more moms and children into the program, continuing to provide education and support for moms and their children, and ensuring that our shepherds feel our great appreciation for their help. For the coming year, MOPS is in need of a new chair and a new mentor mom.

Ministry team members include Sheri Conway, Suzanne Forbes*, Shawn Henry*, Sarah Marchi, Christina Michaud*, Alana Sabol*, Angela Wohlfarth*, and Angela Young* (*not members of CCGP). Please contact Tracey Torosian, chair, if you are interested in becoming active on this team.

The estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were 1400.

Sweeny Lectures

Donald N. Sweeny III, Chair

The Sweeny Memorial Lecture Fund in Christian Ethics and Theology is named in memory of long-time Christ Church Grosse Pointe parishioners Mary Margaret Sweeny and Donald N. Sweeny, Jr. It was originally funded in 1986 and is sustained by a family endowment. The goal of the lecture series is to educationally enrich the greater Grosse Pointe community and the congregation of Christ Church by inviting a speaker or speakers to address the congregation and the community on a subject broadly relevant to Christian ethics. Diane Rehm, National Public Radio Host, was the guest lecturer in March 2008. Her topic was *Faith and Politics: How the Two Intersect in American Culture and Media*. The committee will shortly gather to plan for future program speakers. We welcome your suggestions, input and appreciate

your participation on the committee.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Allan Torp, Vestry Chair

The Rev. Lisa C. Flores, Staff Representative

Parish Life Ministries is made up of the following six supporting ministries: New Member Incorporation, Richard Beadle, Chair; Greeters, Lois Bandler and Jeff Rush, Co-chairs; Foyers, Candy and Don Sweeny, Co-chairs; Holy Dusters, Karyn Weir, Chair; Parish Gatherings, Karyn Weir, Chair; Wholly Wednesdays, Stephanie Hampton, Steering Committee Recorder.

Each ministry is dedicated to enhancing our Christ Church mission, "To bring God and people together to know and live the Good News of Jesus Christ." Each ministry strives to accomplish this mission by actively involving current parishioners and newcomers in their particular ministry.

Ministry plans for the coming year will concentrate on success in the following two areas: 1) A determined effort to bring new members into the parish; 2) A drive to encourage even more involvement from our current members in our ministries.

If you would like to learn more about any of the individual ministries, contact Allan Torp or any of the chair persons. We welcome all newcomers.

Subcommittees of Parish Life Ministries

Foyers

Candace L. Sweeny, Co-chair

Donald N. Sweeny III, Co-chair

In the fall of 2006, Christ Church Grosse Pointe began Foyer Dinners. Modeled after similar programs in other parishes, this non-threatening program is an opportunity for members of the CCGP community to demonstrate our commitment to outreach within our own parish family. The dinners are meant to be casual, low-key and fun. There is no agenda. It is very simply an opportunity to open our homes to fellow parishioners, share a simple meal, and most importantly engage in fellowship. The program has been enthusiastically embraced with over eighty individuals participating. The teams have been purposefully mixed-up so as to provide a variety of ages, backgrounds and time in the parish to each meeting. The teams will be reset in the spring when another opportunity to sign-up will be available. This is an exciting opportunity for each of us to engage in outreach within our own parish family in the comfort of our own homes.

Greeters

Lois Bandler, Co-chair

Jeff Rush, Co-Chair

The Greeters' ministry mission is to serve as the Church's host and hostess by welcoming visitors, newcomers, and parishioners as guests of God at Church services and special events.

Skill set propensity desired for ministry team membership: Outgoing, friendly, and faithful demeanor. The committee chairpersons handle the scheduling, and actively recruits new members of the Church to serve in this ministry. Ministry team members serve approximately once every twelve weeks.

2008 Review: Ministry team membership of the 9 a.m. service remained flat for 2008 with a total of fifty-three parishioners serving as greeters. The 11:15 a.m. service experienced substantial growth in 2008 with a total of forty-two parishioners serving as greeters, up twelve members from the previous year.

Sunday Morning & Special Event Greeters Goals for 2009: One hundred percent coverage by ministry team members at the front and new lobby doors during the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services and special event services and to grow ministry team membership by fifteen percent.

Hours dedicated in 2008: With a total of ninety-five parishioner ministry team members and two committee chairpersons, hours dedicated to this ministry in 2008 is estimated at 275 hours.

Holy Dusters

Karyn Weir, Chair

The mission of the Holy Dusters is to help keep our house of worship clean and welcoming and to enjoy fellowship in the process. We clean when there is need, usually four times a year, under the direction of the Director of Facilities. There are all levels of physical exertion so anyone can participate at any level. Approximately 190 hours are spent per annum cleaning/polishing wood, vacuuming cushions and dusting. There are currently thirty-two people on the committee and more are always welcome. Please contact Mike Fournier or Karyn Weir if you would like to join this enjoyable endeavor.

Parish Gatherings

Karyn Weir, Chair

The mission of the Parish Gatherings Committee is to promote and support our Christian community by providing social events throughout the year. Those events include the Mardi Gras dinner/party, Easter Vigil reception, Mothers' Day reception, Pentecost strawberry shortcake reception, Ministry Fair lunch and the Fall Tea. Our plans for next year are much the same and we would like to expand our committee. It is difficult to estimate the number of hours spent preparing food, cooking, baking, decorating, serving and cleaning up but we enjoy the fellowship working together provides. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Karyn Weir.

Wholly Wednesdays

Stephanie Hampton, Steering Committee Recorder

The Very Rev. David Dieter, Staff Representative

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the purpose of this ministry is to provide a regular opportunity for social, educational or recreational experiences for persons over the age of 55.

Assessment of the program year: involvement was greatly diminished due to lack of attendance.

The goal for the coming year is to find consistent leadership to encourage programming and attendance.

Ministry Hours are 185.

PARISH PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

Michael DeFillipi, Vestry Chair

The Very Rev. David Dieter, Staff Representative

The Pastoral Care Ministries at Christ Church are dedicated to the compassionate and continuous delivery of prayer and empathy, listening and encouragement, comfort and hospitality, to the many hurting persons in our parish and the community beyond us. Eight individual Pastoral Ministries are fueled by the commitment and labor of over 100 pastoral team members, contributing thousands of hours of time and effort annually to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves" and live out this critical mission of our church in effective ways that are particular to each pastoral care team. These eight pastoral ministries are under the constant guidance and leadership of Senior Associate Rector David Dieter. Every three months (sometimes more frequently) the Vestry Chair for Pastoral Care will invite the eight leaders of each Pastoral Care Team and Fr. David to meet and report on the health and activities of their ministry, share notes and resources, and exchange news and views with the Vestry. Pastoral Care Ministries at Christ Church are vibrant and growing, with an increasing will this year to share resources and boost our visibility to the community.

Subcommittees of Parish Pastoral Care Ministries

'A Stitch in Time...'

Judy Thoma, Chair

Members, a very ecumenical group of ladies, meet every Tuesday in the Undercroft from 10:30 am-2 pm. We use our God given skills and time here at the church to create items for outreach to the poor and needy. There is fun, fellowship, exchange of skills, and personal support, all while creating items for our outreach projects. Our goals are simple: to continue creating items for the needy and to recruit and welcome new members who wish to support our goals. Anyone interested in joining us should simply come to a meeting or contact Judy Thoma or Mary Herbert.

As a group, our combined hours spent in the Undercroft total approximately 600 with uncountable hours spent at home working on projects. Our outreach for 2008 extended to Most Holy Trinity, Shorepointe Nursing, St. John Hospital, and Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital. Estimated value of items donated: \$588.

Career Transition Support Group

The Very Rev. David Dieter, Staff Representative

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the purpose of this ministry is to provide a safe forum for persons discouraged and suffering from lack of employment, under employment or fear of losing employment. Networking ideas, job search brainstorming and job search encouragement are a regular part of each meeting.

Highlights for the year were excellent facilitation by Andrea Becker and Richard Gibson and some attendees successfully increasing their employment.

The goal for the coming year is to increase visibility and to encourage stronger attendance. The more persons willing to share in this ministry of support the better the results for each person.

Estimated ministry hours are 120.

Daughters of the King

Jean Redfield, President

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to bring together a lay religious order of women for prayer, service and evangelization.

Highlights/Assessments for the program year: Plan to incorporate at least two new members into the order in Spring 2009, supported the various prayer and service activities of the parish through active prayer list and group prayer at monthly meetings, maintaining vigil candles in the Baptistry, sponsored Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil.

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are: Continued incorporation of new members; continued parish support through prayer and service; improved communication and prayer support with other pastoral care ministries, especially Stephen Ministers and Grief Support; sponsoring Lenten Quiet Day for parish on Saturday March 28, 2009 and Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil.

List of ministry team/members and contact person/chair are: Jean Redfield (President), Wendy Niven (Prayer List), and Susan Stapleton (Secretary and Prayer Calendar).

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were approximately 300.

Divorce Support Group

Pat Wenzel, Chair

The divorce support group meets on an as needed basis. The goal of the meetings is to provide an opportunity for confidential sharing, mutual support and prayer among those in various stages of divorce.

Funeral Reception Ministry

Margaret Torp, Chair

The mission of the Funeral Reception Ministry is to offer support to families and assistance to the clergy at the time of a funeral or memorial service. This ministry is a vital part of the Pastoral Care Ministry at Christ Church, reaching out to the family during a difficult time.

Assessments for the program year: Supported families and clergy at fifteen funerals and memorial services; planned, prepared, and served at All Saints' reception; continued care of table linens and silver services; purchased necessary supplies for receptions; planned, prepared and served during funeral receptions.

Ministry plans for the coming year: Encourage parishioners to join this ministry, review and streamline present procedures with team members, contact new members to Christ Church with information about this ministry.

Ministry team chairs/captains: Shirley Bradley, Stephanie Hampton, Peggy Maycock, Betsy McCormick, Jean Redfield, Margaret Torp, Kathie vonSchwarz, Elaine Yates, Beverly Walsh.

Thirty-five dedicated women spend 4 to 8 hours from initial contact to preparation and conclusion. In addition, twenty women volunteer to bake refreshments for receptions.

Estimated person/ministry hours for one funeral reception: 54 hours

Estimated person/ministry hours for the program year 2008: 800 hours

The Funeral Reception Ministry welcomes new members. You may commit to a particular month, volunteer to help when available, or bake cookies for receptions. Please contact any of the chairs to express your interest.

Stephen Ministry

Ben Daume, Michael DeFillipi, Polly Ledyard, Sharon Snyder, Leaders
The Very Rev. David Dieter, Staff Representative

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is confidential, holy, one-on-one listening to those in need of support in time of trouble.

Highlights for the program year: Twice monthly meetings of Stephen Ministers for peer support and supervision. Mike DeFillipi was trained as a Stephen Minister and has become a very active member of the Christ Church Stephen Ministry leadership team.

Ministry plans for the coming year: Engage all active Stephen Ministers in caring relationships with care receivers and, starting in January, present a training class for new Stephen Ministers and commission them in the spring.

Ministry team consists of the leaders (mentioned above) and active Stephen Ministers: Michael DeFillipi, Sue Harper, Gerhard Heinen, Mary Holmes, Crit Leibbrand, Keith Leibbrand, Mark Lorenger. Numerous other Stephen Ministers are currently on leave or retired.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry by Stephen Ministers and leaders for 2008: 478.

PARISH LITURGY AND WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Pat O'Brien, Vestry Co-chair

Peggy Woodhouse, Non-Vestry Co-chair

The Rev. Brad Whitaker and Scott Hanoian, Staff Representatives

In support of this parish, the mission/purpose of the Parish Liturgy and Worship Ministries is to be good stewards in Christ. The mission is to assist the Rector and other clergy with the planning and development of any special service and to provide meaningful input for the staff regarding regular worship services. The members of this ministry team are expected to provide input not only from their own diverse backgrounds, but also from feedback solicited or received from parishioners at large.

The ministry meets quarterly—March, June, September, and December—to review the activities of the following committees: Clergy, Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors, Acolytes/Vergers, Altar Guild, Flower Committee, Choirs, Antiques Show Co-chairs, Ushers, Greeters, Guild of the Christ Child, Wedding Coordinator, and Director of Facilities. During the program year the Ushers and Greeters goal was to provide a welcoming, comfortable environment. The Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors, Vergers and Clergy worked to present meaningful, reverent and thought provoking services. The Choirs, Altar Guild and Flower Committee consistently arrange an enriching, uplifting and beautiful setting. The Acolytes, Nursery, and Guild of the Christ Child provided nurturing opportunities and development for children. The Wedding Coordinator served parishioners' needs during life's important events. The Director of Facilities ensured that the needs of every event were fulfilled.

This ministry's goals for the coming year are to ensure success for each of the members and to incorporate new members on the committees, offering them opportunities to serve. The work we do reflects the willingness of Christ Church to reach out to the community through concerts, chorales, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and services for special events, i.e. national tragedies or historical events.

The members are: The Rev Brad Whitaker and The Rev. Lisa Flores, Clergy; The Very Rev. David Dieter, Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors; Jeff Stallings and Daisy Bledsoe-Herring, Acolytes/Vergers; Sharon Snyder, Altar Guild; Carol Gaslin, Flower Committee; Scott Hanoian, Choirs, Chorale; Scottie Knight, Nancy Osborn, Antiques Show 2009; Jeff von-Schwarz, Ushers; Tracey Torosian, Guild of the Christ Child; Nancy Nicholson, Wedding Coordinator 2008; Michael Fournier, Director of Facilities. Please contact the ministry team members if you are interested in becoming active in any of these committees.

The estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 are 365 days x 24 hours, approximately.

Subcommittees of Parish Liturgy and Worship Ministries

Acolytes/Vergers

Jeffrey Stallings, Coordinator

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to offer, at the highest standard possible, praises to God through support of the worship service. Acolytes serve this ministry through duties that support the worship service and assist the priest to prepare for the Holy Eucharist. Vergers are responsible to recruit new Acolytes, train them, and nurture their service. Collectively, these individuals remain servants to the altar. Their primary duty is to serve God and the Church, and to assist the priest in whatever way he or she needs.

Highlights/Assessments for the program year: Presently, we have thirty-eight young people, grade four through twelve, involved in the acolyte program. This includes thirteen new members to this ministry. Currently we have twelve vergers and we recently welcomed and trained five new vergers to the team. We are excited to have all these new individuals.

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year: We would like to continue to engage and recruit new members from the current grade three Sunday School class, and any others who are interested; as requested by clergy, expand acolyte and verger service to assist with evensong, funerals, and other special services; plan for an end of year celebration to "thank" acolytes and vergers for their year of service (this celebration would occur in late spring before the end of the academic school year); begin plans for regular attendance (every four years) to the Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

If you are interested in joining the team of Acolytes/Vergers, please contact one of the following: Coordinator, Jeffery Stallings; Head Acolyte, Daisy Bledsoe-Herring; clergy liaison, The Rev. Bradford Whitaker, Rector.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were 1018.

Altar Guild

Sharon Snyder, Directress

It is the mission of the Altar Guild to provide a seamless and beautiful setting in which the clergy can conduct services of baptism and communion. All elements are set out and cleared. Linens are laundered and ironed. Silver is kept in good repair and washed and polished. We are a group of dedicated ladies who generally work in teams or pairs. There is real satisfaction in this behind-the-scenes service.

Members are invited to join the Altar Guild by the rector. Then new members are trained until they are confident to serve on their own. If you would like to join us, please speak to the Directress or Rector.

Currently our members are: Anne Birgbauer, Susan Chaklos, Betsy Creedon, Catherine Dawson, Bobbi Gaspar, Stephanie Hampton, Sue Harper, Lynnette Iannace, Edie Jacques, Susan Jeffery, Jean Jones, Al Mackey, Kim McNulty, Nancy Nicholson, Wendy Niven, Nancy Ross, Sharon Snyder, Sally Stallings, Emily Tennyson, Chris Wardwell, Sally Wheeler, Harriett Whitaker, Katherine Wilson, and Margaret Woodford.

It is estimated that we have spent well over 400 hours on service to this work.

Antiques Show

Scottie Knight and Nancy Osborn, Co-chairs

Scott Hanoian, Staff Representative

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to provide financial support for the Music and Outreach Ministries of Christ Church. The Show also provides a wonderful opportunity to bring parishioners together to work towards a common goal and to share our church with the larger community.

Highlights/Assessments for the program year: In 2008, the 24th Antiques Show was held May 30th-June 1st. The Show offered beautiful antiques from thirty-two dealers from around the country. Revenue was generated through private and corporate sponsorship, advertising, silent auction, parties and ticket sales. The net profit for the Show exceeded \$60,000 which was divided between the Music and Outreach Ministries per Vestry direction.

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are: The 25th Antiques Show (Silver Anniversary) will be held May 29-May 31, 2009. The Show will again offer dealers from around the country, a Preview Party with Silent Auction, a lecture featuring an internationally known designer as the speaker, and an appraisal clinic. Due to softness in the overall economy and the Detroit area specifically, net profit for the Show is expected to be lower than 2008 levels.

List of ministry team/members and contact person/chairs: Scottie Knight, Nancy Osborn and Scott Hanoian.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008: It is estimated that over 1850 hours were dedicated to the Antiques Show. This includes committee hours for planning throughout the year, committee and staff hours for preparation of the church buildings the weeks before and after the Show, and hundreds of parishioner hours for staffing during the weekend of the Show.

Choir of Men and Boys, Choir of Men and Girls, Christ Church Chorale

Scott Hanoian, Director of Music and Organist

The principal mission of the music program at Christ Church is to offer, at the highest standard possible, praises to God through leadership in music and liturgy. The program also supports the education, religious and non-religious, of children through intensive musical tuition.

The choirs have spent the year singing for services and concerts at a consistently high level of achievement. Highlights have included joining the choir of Christ Church Cranbrook in West Bloomfield on their evensong series, joining forces with the American Boychoir during their visit to Christ Church, singing with the Oakland Choral Society in their performance of Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicolas*, as well as a special liturgy on the Sunday after All Saints' featuring Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*.

Our principal thrust for the coming year continues to be the recruitment of boys and girls to the choirs. In addition to adding choristers to fill the available slots in the choirs, we will look for boys and girls with a hearty appetite for singing and a level of talent and commitment appropriate to the music rigors of the Christ Church music program. Recruitment efforts continue through our *Vocal Music Camp* introduced this past summer and a new program entitled *Chorister for a Day*, the first of which will take place this coming March.

In addition, we will look to offer programs during the coming year which will continue to energize our current membership roster as well as encourage visitors to Christ Church.

Flower Committee

Carol Gaskin, Coordinator

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the purpose of this ministry is to provide flowers to the Glory of God, to enhance the worship experience, and to provide a means of memorial remembrances.

Highlights for the program year: We are delighted to have added new members to our team this year and a workshop was provided for all new and veteran arrangers.

List of ministry team members: Betsy Campbell, Ann Eatherly, Brenda Mattila, Peggy Maycock, Helen McKnight, Gioconda McMillan, Nancy Nicholson, Abby Peck, Barbara Perez, Ursula Persidskis, Brenda Rittenhouse, Goodie Semple, Candy Sweeny, Richard Thomas, Mary Trost, Christine Watt; helpers—David Gaskin, Jim Nykanen, David Perez.

Estimated number of hours devoted to this ministry in 2008 were 1800.

Guild of the Christ Child

Tracey Torosian, Chair

The mission of this ministry is to provide support to individuals and families who are planning a baptism at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. We recognize that it may be a time at which people are beginning their life with the church or returning to their church life. We welcome them and provide information that may help them to feel more comfortable and understand other opportunities that are available within the church. Others already may be established with the church; we hope to further their experience of the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Highlights for the program year involved assisting with seventeen baptisms.

The primary ministry plan for the coming year is to find a new chair and increase the number of members on our ministry team.

The ministry team includes Meredith Hanoian, Lisa MacLean, Sarah Marchi, and Jennifer Wu. Please contact Tracey Torosian, chair, if you are interested in becoming active on this team.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were 80.

Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors

The Very Rev. David Dieter, Clergy

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission of this ministry is supporting the worship experience

throughout the year and sharing the sacraments with those who are able to receive in church and those who are home bound or in a medical facility.

Assessments for the program year are successfully and consistently serving at each Eucharistic experience, the training of new ministers and meaningful in-service education for the whole group.

Ministry goals for the coming year are full assignment of Visitors and attracting new persons to this critical ministry. Contact person is Fr. David Dieter

Estimated ministry hours are more than 2100.

Ushers

Jeff vonSchwarz, Coordinator

The ushers continue to serve at all services, concerts, and most Christ Church funerals. Duties of the ushers are to greet, seat, and give directions or aid to parishioners and guests. We have included children and youth at some services and would like to include them in our regular rotation. If you are interested in becoming an usher, contact Jeff vonSchwarz at 313-886-5527 (home) or 313-882-5200 (office).

Wedding Coordinators

Nancy Nicholson, 2008 Wedding Coordinator

The wedding coordinators continue to serve as called upon by the clergy of this parish. We assist couples and their families with the organization and details of conducting a wedding in our beautiful Christ Church setting.

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to assist couples and their families with the organization and details of a wedding.

Our goal for the coming year is to work with clergy to strengthen communication with couples regarding what is and what is not acceptable behavior while on our church space.

PARISH RESOURCES MINISTRIES

Donald N. Sweeny III, Vestry Chair

Theresa Muzzi, Staff Representative

The Parish Resources Ministries assists the rector in the oversight of the ministry teams responsible for the financial health of Christ Church and its general operations. The ministry teams making up this area are, ACS Technologies; the Arimathaea Society (Planned Giving); Buildings and Grounds; Christ Church First (Stewardship); Columbarium and Memorial Garden; Conservation Trust; Finance; Gifts, Acquisitions and Furnishings; Investment; Personnel; Rose Garden; Green Committee; and the Stained Glass Window. Thank you to all the ministry chairs and members for the time they contribute to these ministries. Also special thanks to Theresa Muzzi, Parish Administrator. An open invitation is extended to any parishioner who would like to serve on these ministry teams; we welcome fresh ideas and perspectives. If you are interested please speak to any of the ministry chairs.

Subcommittees of Parish Resources Ministries

ACS Technology Committee

Wendy Niven, Chair

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to provide technology support to parish activities through the full use of the Management Information System, ACS. This support includes working with staff to implement the features of ACS by helping to develop the database with parishioner information, ministry and committee membership, Christian Formation classes, attendance, and structure, and developing a usable system for special ministries to track their activities (the Music program mailings, the Antiques Show).

Our goal is to enhance parish-wide communications through supporting the webpage (www.christchurchgp.org) Members' Only section ("*Parishioner Login*"), where registered parishioners can see every ministry and committee to which they belong and send emails to other members of those committees. Parishioners can also view and update their Church profiles and pledge online.

Highlights/Assessments for the program year: This year represents the first full year for this committee. We focused our efforts on improving communications across the parish through technology. Specific tasks for the year included review-

ing how the “Special Mailings” module could help expand our ability to capture mailing information for non-parishioners and potential members, expanding parishioners’ use of the “Members Only” section of the website, ensuring that we have information for Christian Education activity, working with Communications to help develop mailing/email lists for specific parish purposes. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for the “Members Only” web usage.

A highlight of this year’s efforts include updating parishioner information in ACS – if you haven’t yet given us your current email address, or if you have made other changes, please don’t forget to let the church office know so you don’t miss any of our (e)mailings!

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are: Maintain the “Special Mailings” database as an archive of parish activities for each year (such as the Antiques Show) to help improve our ability to contact interested community members for our special events; develop the Connections Module to help with intra-parish communications; continue to provide support for the mission of CCGP by improving communication with parishioners and the larger community

List of ministry team/members and contact person/chairs are: Wendy Niven (wdniv@comcast.net, 313-580-7208), Theresa Muzzi (staff), Bill Cudlip, Mike DeFillipi, Stuart Grigg, Luanne Ahlbrand , Lisa Nielsen, Brendan Ross , Carrie Sutton.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were approximately 250 beyond routine system use including the hours spent by our co-op students.

Buildings and Grounds

Mark Lorenger, Chair

The purpose and mission of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is to coordinate all activities relating to the ongoing maintenance, refurbishment or construction of all church property, which includes clergy residences, the church and educational wing building, surrounding grounds, furnishings and equipment. This ministry of preserving and enhancing our buildings and grounds works very closely with the Parish Administrator, Director of Facilities, the Gifts, Furnishings and Acquisitions Committee, Columbarium and Memorial Garden Committee and the Virginia Brush Ford Rose Garden Committee.

Our members include Gaylord Creedon, Mike Fournier (Director of Facilities), Denny Hoag, Jack McCormick, Theresa Muzzi (Parish Administrator), George Sutton, Candy Sweeny, Kit Tennyson, John Woodhouse, Alex Varas, Elaine Yates and George Zinn. B&G welcomed Jeff Rush as a new, active, and enthusiastic member to the committee. B&G also formed a Green subcommittee to facilitate recycling and resource savings within the parish. We met twelve times in 2008, reviewing financial reports, staffing, immediate and future consideration concerns. We mainly focused on project prioritization during the year; however, many projects were put on hold because of a lack of expendable funds.

Our highlights for 2008 include some of the more significant projects completed. They were the replacement of all original windows (93) in the Rectory. In addition, the complete exterior of the Rectory was painted and all wood trim was refinished and stained as well. The Meadow Lane garage was raised and a new garage floor and rear driveway were poured. Outside motion detection lighting was added in the Meadow Lane rear yard. In addition, all exterior windows were re-glazed and repainted along with all other outside wood trim. Motion detection was added to all Christian Education stairwells which provides immediate lighting and will help us achieve electrical usage cost savings. Also, new altar step railings were added to assist parishioners in approaching the altar.

Professional home inspections of all of our residences were completed in 2008 which has allowed us to create a living documentation on equipment within our facilities which better helps us to budget future needs in terms of replacement of equipment. We are also tracking energy consumption at all facilities so that we might be better stewards of our natural resources as a parish.

Our ministry goals for the coming year continue to ensure that we are prudent with our resources, ensure the safety of parishioners and visitors and maintain the value and integrity of all structures and grounds. We have much to do and we can certainly use your time and talents in helping us preserve our beautiful buildings and grounds. Please consider joining our ministry.

Ministry hours spent by all of us totaled in excess of 1000 hours in 2008. Our committee is grateful for George Sutton in his capacity as committee secretary.

Christ Church First

Members: Peggy Beadle, Libby Candler, Betsy Creedon, David McCoy,
Blair Osborn, Carrie Sutton, John Van Osdol, Jeff vonSchwarz
The Rev. Bradford G. Whitaker, Staff Representative

Christ Church First supports the mission of our parish with the purpose of promoting a giving culture at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Our focus this past year was to get people to consider what Christ Church means to them, realize what they are searching for in their life, and Christ Church's role in that search. Our team dedicated over 400 hours during the past year in support of this mission. Our ever-elusive goal of 100% pledge participation remains.

Early in the year, we met with the Vestry to review giving patterns at Christ Church, noting that in 2008 30% of those pledging gave 76% of the total amount pledged. This is not unusual among churches. During this meeting we had the Vestry contemplate the questions outlined above, and planned ways to promote these conversations amongst parishioners.

In addition to one-to-one conversations, the parish was invited to attend small group conversations centered around these questions over the course of three Sunday afternoons in October. We would like to once again thank Libby Candler, Mike DeFillipi and David Gerdis, Laura and Peter Huebner, Heather and David Jones, Scottie and Gar Knight, Peggy and Joe Maycock, Candy and Don Sweeny, and Karyn Weir for hosting these gatherings. We plan to continue these conversations in 2009.

Prayer maintained an integral role within our stewardship efforts. During the weeks leading up to Commitment Sunday, we re-published prayers (contributed by thirty-seven parishioners) in a devotional guide and distributed through email. These meditations helped us prepare for Commitment Sunday, when we all came forward during services to deliver our financial pledges for 2009.

Our challenge for 2009 is to continue the dialogue about Christ Church's role in our lives and promote this awareness. We will continue our prayerful approach with this ministry, and encourage you to share your thoughts about stewardship by contacting us at ccf@christchurchgp.org.

Your time, talent and treasure are the foundation for God's ministry at Christ Church.

Finance Committee

Jean Redfield, Chair

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to model stewardship by providing prayerful review and oversight of the financial resources of the parish, and recommendations/support to the Vestry, staff and ministry chairs as appropriate.

Highlights/Assessments for the program year: Led effort to address 2008 budget shortfall created by lack of \$145,000 income from endowment expendables due to reduced endowment market values; supported parish-wide communications regarding parish financial position; supported external audit process and provided response to audit findings; led effort to generate 2009 budget scenarios and support 2009 budget approval process; initiated multi-year planning process and streamlined reporting presentations.

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are: Fully implement multi-year planning process and "provisional" budgets (e.g. quarterly review of actuals vs. forecast with course correction as appropriate); broaden communication efforts to increase parish understanding of financial position and support overall stewardship efforts; continue efforts to streamline/clarify financial reports formats for ease of use; recruit new members to committee.

List of ministry team/members and contact person/chairs are: Jean Redfield (Treasurer), Theresa Muzzi (staff), George Nicholson, Joe Maycock, Blair Osborn, Kit Tennyson, Mark Lorenger, Lynda Altovilla.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were 325.

Green Team Committee

Candy Sweeny, Chair

The purpose of the Green Team ministry is to educate and begin the implementation of a green environment by reducing our carbon footprint within the Christ Church community. The Green Team Committee began meeting in August 2008. We have initiated communications in the Sunday bulletin, *Crossings*, and the weekly email updates. In collaboration with the Cloister Bookshop and the Welcoming Committee, we purchased more than 200 green cloth bags to be sold in the Cloister Bookshop and used by the Welcoming Committee to distribute pertinent information to newcomers. We are researching what other churches are doing in our community as a basis for developing our 2009 comprehensive action

plan. The Green Team goals are 1) to reduce our paper trail by using the Internet as the primary source of communication for parishioners, 2) to recruit four families to participate in the 'Cool Congregations' carbon footprint reduction program (increase participation), and 3) to guide our congregants to become better stewards of God's creations by providing several Adult Forums and Sunday worship services that focus on conserving our planet through sermons, readings, and music. The committee is working with the Adult Forum Committee to develop an environmental awareness curriculum for adults and children. Our active committee members consist of Sharon Blain, Doreen Kohr, Barbara Perez, Candy Sweeny, and Ann Yeamens and additional members for special projects. We welcome any interested persons. 75 hours have been spent for research, seminars, communications and committee meetings.

Investment Committee

John Snyder, Chair

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to advise the Vestry on the investment policies and guidelines for the Church's Endowment Fund, a combined pool of various endowments, and to make appropriate investment changes in the endowments to fulfill the long term goals of the funds. The goals are to provide a stream of income for the various ministry areas supported by endowments while maintaining the inflation protected body of the endowment.

Highlights/Assessments for the program year: Met quarterly to discuss the endowments as we actively monitored the performance and took appropriate actions to assure the endowments are meeting their intended investment objectives. The Endowment decreased in value by \$1,296,350 to \$4,658,438, adjusted for cash flow in and out, netting a \$40,000 addition. The total return for the Fund for the periods ending 12/30/2008 was not available as the report went to print. Performance numbers will be available from the Chair of the Investment Committee after the meeting.

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are the same as 2008 and prior years.

List of ministry team/members and contact person/chair are: John Snyder, Chair; Joseph Maycock, John Conway, Ann Eatherly, Bruce Greening, Chris Lucander, George Nicholson. Theresa Muzzi, Parish Administrator, is on the committee as the staff representative along with the Treasurer, Jean Redfield. The brokerage representative where the assets are custodied, Michael Welch at R W Baird, also serves on the committee. No member of the committee benefits economically from being on the committee.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were approximately 100 hours (2 + hours per person in meetings and numerous hours preparing for the meetings).

PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Libby Candler, Vestry Chair

The Very Rev. David Dieter, Staff Representative

The purpose of the Parish Outreach Ministries is to establish and nurture faithful relationships with outreach programs within our Detroit Metropolitan Community and beyond. Additionally, Outreach Ministries is responsible for the stewardship of outreach funds through coordinated Vestry approved fundraisers, as well as the distribution of those funds to named beneficiaries. Programs supported in the 2008 calendar year: Disaster Relief, Church of the Messiah, Crop Walk, Relay for Life, Crossroads, Bound Together East, Habitat of Michigan, Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana-Office of Disaster Response (EDOLA-ODR), Red Cross Blood Drive. In addition to these programs please see the Outreach Funding report. Christ Church fundraising events included the Antiques Show, Golf Outing, Gifts and Greens.

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are to continue building upon our relationships with current outreach partners as well as to nurture new relationships. Additionally, the ministry will coordinate an outreach events calendar.

Current Committee Members: Chair: Libby Candler, Staff: David Dieter, Committee Members: David Redfield, Jean Redfield, Scottie Knight, Helen Santiz, Harriett Whitaker, Matt Schuetze, Mark Lorenger, Ted Hagan, Paula Labadie.

Subcommittees of Parish Outreach Ministries

Christ Church/Church of the Messiah Partnership

Helen Santiz, Chair

This has been a truly amazing year at Church of the Messiah, and the ways that the partnership could be of benefit to both churches have increased by leaps and bounds.

The beginning of the year was marked by serious financial problems at Messiah, after the Messiah Housing Corporation moved out of the building, with a consequential loss of rental income for the church. In spite of an increase in parishioners, it was getting harder to meet their bills. So Rev. Barry Randolph took a leap of faith--first moving into the church to save rent and utilities, and then quitting his outside job so that he could be available full-time. (Messiah cannot afford to pay clergy.)

Since then there has been an explosion of opportunities, all sparked by the theft of their faux copper "Green Jesus" off the outside wall. (The thief clearly thought it was copper, but it is not.) The resulting press/TV coverage went around the world, and Messiah responded by forming a grass roots community organization called CUFS (Citizens United for Safety). CUFS has drawn the attention of leading government officials, law enforcement, business, the media, and the community. A two-mile parade attracted the neighborhood, with the "Green Jesus" as the grand marshal--bungeed to the roll bar of George Port's convertible. (Jesus has been repaired, and will be "resurrected" on the outside wall around Easter.)

Bound Together, the after-school program for grades 1-5, continues. And now Ray of Hope, a new program donated by Computech, has installed computers linked to an online individualized learning program to help bring middle school students up to grade level.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry in the inner-city, there are many ways. Just contact Helen Santiz or Susan or Gerhard Heinen.

CCGP active committee members are Daisy Bledsoe-Herring, The Very Rev. David Dieter (clergy liaison), Jeannie Davis, Linda Hart, Gerhard and Susan Heinen, Sally Mackintosh, Helen Santiz (chair)

Time dedicated to the ministry: four meetings per year, total about 8 hours; volunteer activities vary by the individual's choice.

Cooperative Nursery at Christ Church

Louise Blake, Directress

The Cooperative Nursery at Christ Church operates a nursery school for children who are from three to five years old. The Nursery provides a unique opportunity for parents to actively share in their child's first introduction to school. The program provides an opportunity for the children to participate in living and practical learning while promoting individual growth in an atmosphere of security and acceptance. The program is designed to develop a positive self-image in each of the children, to help the children learn self-control and self-discipline, to teach the children how to share and take turns with materials, to aid the children in learning to be courteous in speech and behavior, to offer the children an opportunity for self-directed play in a free environment, to allow the children the pure pleasure of play, to encourage the children to respect their peers and their individual differences, to help the children in learning to follow directions in a group and in individual situations, and to offer readiness skills appropriate to the individual child according to their age and ability. Children of Christ Church families are welcomed as students at the Cooperative Nursery at Christ Church. There is a preference for admission available for Christ Church Grosse Pointe children.

Disaster Relief Task Force

David Redfield, Chair

To support the mission of Christ Church and to build up the Kingdom of God, the purpose of this ministry is to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters that have undergone severe upset and/or dislocation due to a major disaster. Specifically, this committee has focused on ministering to the people of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina since August of 2005.

Highlight of 2008 activity: Sent a ministry team to New Orleans to assist the rebuilding effort in the city. This was the third work trip from Christ Church and consisted of fifteen persons coming from four parishes including Christ Church, Messiah, St. Matthew's & St. Joseph's, and St. Clare of Assisi. This team worked on two different houses primarily painting and dry walling. The team also staffed the Mobile Loaves and Fishes truck at Trinity New Orleans, a feeding project. One member worked with the Mobile Medical Unit.

In addition, the team delivered \$8435 in proceeds from the 2007 Gifts and Greens Sale to the Office of Disaster Relief. It was truly exciting to hear firsthand from Bishop Jenkins about their ministry to the people of the Diocese.

The truly wonderful part of this trip was to provide love and support in a tangible way to the people of New Orleans who continue to struggle mightily to put their lives back together after the storm.

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are to continue to respond to the needs of others. A trip to New Orleans is being considered.

List of ministry team/members: Ann Eatherly, Jean Redfield, Susan Jeffery, Dave Redfield (chair).

The team provided nearly 100 work days to the rebuilding effort!

Episcopal Relief and Development Fund

Heather Jones, Representative

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to make the congregation aware of the opportunities to serve people in the US and abroad in times of disaster and need through the National Church's relief program.

Contact person: Heather Jones (representative).

Estimated time dedicated to this ministry for 2008 was 1 hour.

Gifts and Greens

Jean Redfield, Chair

As a means of supporting the mission of this parish, the mission/purpose of this ministry is to bring the parish and community together to accomplish the secular chores of Christmas (e.g., holiday decorating and gift buying) in an alternative environment while raising significant funds for Outreach, local and Fair Trade producers and Heifer International.

Highlights/Assessments for the program year: Awarded \$16,800 in Outreach funds from 2007 sale: \$8,400 to Habitat Grosse Pointe Partners, and \$8,400 to Episcopal Diocese Of Louisiana's Office of Disaster Response (EDOLA-ODR); conducted review of 2007 sale in February in order to capture lessons learned and plans for improving 2008 event (lower costs, lower efforts, add to mission); recruited new lead for Tree Lot and several new members as weekend volunteers; successfully held Gifts and Greens Sale December 5-7, 2008. Included Preview Party, Silent and Live Auctions, Fair Trade/ Heifer International Booth, Santa's Workshop, Bake Sale, Greens Bow-tique and Tree Lot; raised on the order of \$14,000 (as of 12/11/2008).

Ministry plans/goals for the coming year are: Continue to build "low impact" approach to Gifts and Greens while building the weekend as a community-based alternative to secular Christmas preparation; recruit new members/volunteers.

List of ministry team/members and contact person/chairs are: Jean Redfield, Beth Alltop, Paula Labadie.

Estimated number of person/ministry hours dedicated to this ministry for 2008 were approximately 500 (including approx. 300 volunteer hours on the weekend).

Outreach Funding Committee

Libby Candler, Chair

The purpose of the Outreach Funding Committee is to be responsible for the allocation of funds to charitable and/or community organizations which support the church, the Vestry's vision for Outreach Ministries and additionally, which have a direct or indirect relationship with Christ Church Grosse Pointe, its members, the Diocese of Michigan or the Episcopal Church in general. Grant application deadlines were May 1, 2008 and October 1, 2008. Each committee member is assigned one or more applications to review and then present to the full committee for deliberation. The following programs were funded in 2008: SOC, Grosse Pointe; St. Francis Cabrini Clinic, Detroit; Bound Together, Pontiac; The Church of St. Luke in the Fields, New York; Warm Hearts Foundation, Malawi, Africa; Adult Well Being, Detroit; Alternatives for Girls, Detroit; The Bishop H. Irving Mayson Scholarship Foundation, Detroit; Canterbury House, Ann Arbor; Citizens for Safety, Church of the Messiah, Detroit; Crossroads of Michigan, Detroit; The Detroit Institute for Children, Detroit; First Step, Plymouth; St. Gabriel's MCREST, Detroit; Christ Church Discretionary Fund. Total funding for 2008: \$49,600.00.

Current Committee Members: Chair: Libby Candler, Staff: The Very Rev. David Dieter, Committee Members: Nancy Osborn, Sharon Blain, John Brennan, Ted Hagan, Laura Huebner, Heather Jones, Sara Ralph.

Eligibility to Vote

Eligibility to vote at a parish meeting shall be restricted to those baptized members of sixteen years of age or over, who, for six months prior to such meeting, have been regular worshipers at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Membership on the Vestry at Christ Church is made up of fifteen lay men and women elected for three-year terms at the Annual Meeting in January. Each year five new members are elected from among at least ten nominated by the Vestry Nominating Committee. Additional nominations may be made by petition. No Vestry person may be elected to succeed himself/herself; however, a former Vestry member who has been out of office for at least one year may be elected for a new three-year term.

The members of the Vestry serve as lay leaders in working with the clergy and staff in planning, implementing and evaluating the various aspects of parish programs. The Vestry has responsibility for providing the funds necessary to support the activities of the church, including the salaries of its clergy and staff and necessary maintenance and repairs to the physical facilities. Each year the Vestry elects as its officers Senior and Junior Wardens, a Treasurer, a Secretary, assistants to each of these if needed, and a Chancellor (usually an attorney) to supervise the legal affairs of the parish.

The Vestry meets on the third Monday of each month. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

THE VESTRY OF CHRIST CHURCH

Term Expiring 2009

Heather Albrecht
Richard Beadle
Betsy Creedon
Michael DeFillipi
John Van Osdol

Term Expiring 2010

Susan Larsen
Joseph Maycock, Jr.
Patricia O'Brien
Donald N. Sweeny III
Allan Torp

Term Expiring 2011

Libby Candler
Harold Hagan
Joseph Katulic
Carrie Sutton
Jeffrey vonSchwarz

Proposed Amendments to Christ Church Grosse Pointe Bylaws

1. To change the date of electing Vestry members from the date of the Annual Meeting to a date in November. (Newly elected would take office in January after the Annual Meeting).

Change the date of electing Vestry members from the date of the Annual Meeting in January to a date in November. The election in November would be effective immediately after the following Annual Meeting. In the opinion of the Committee the advantages of this change would be (1) since many members of our congregation go south in the winter it is likely that more members would be able to vote at a November meeting than at a January meeting, and (2) those individuals elected in November would be able to attend (without voting rights) several Vestry meetings before they take office after the next Annual Meeting. By doing so they could become familiar with Vestry procedures and their obligations as Vestry members, and could participate in Vestry discussions, particularly those concerning the budget. See Article II, first paragraph of Section 2, and Article VI, Section 1, of the proposed bylaws.

2. To change the procedure for voting for Vestry members.

Change the procedure for voting for Vestry members so that throughout the voting process the number of nominees eligible for election will be twice the number of vacancies to be filled. Our current bylaws provide that on the first ballot ten nominees are eligible for five vacancies and that a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast to be elected. However, if after the first ballot one or more vacancies remain to be filled, all nominees not elected on the first ballot are eligible on the second ballot. For example, if one vacancy remains after the first ballot, six nominees are eligible for election on the second ballot. This quite often has led to multiple ballots. The proposed change would limit the number of eligible nominees in this example to two, twice the number of vacancies. As a result, the proposed change would reduce the likelihood of multiple ballots. This could shorten the election process and in the view of some parishioners make running for the Vestry less painful. See Article II, third paragraph of Section 2.

3. To make “housekeeping” changes in the Bylaws to clarify and conform them to the Canons of the Diocese.

- A. References are made throughout the existing bylaws to various Canons of the Diocese of Michigan. Several years ago the Canons were rewritten and the method of numbering specific Canons was changed so that all of these references in the bylaws are wrong. The proposed amendment corrects all of these incorrect references.
- B. The proposed amended bylaws make a few other minor clarifying and updating changes. For example, in Sections 7 and 8 of Article IV “his or her” have been substituted for “his”, and in Section 8 (c) of Article IV “Parish Administrator” has been substituted for “Business Manager”.

4. Vestry consent electronically.

As permitted by Michigan law, new Section 6 of Article V provides that in addition to taking action at a meeting the Vestry may take action without a meeting if all Vestry members consent in writing or by electronic transmission.

The Vestry supports all of the changes in the bylaws summarized above.

2008 Treasurer's Report

We are blessed by abundance at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

We enjoy growing giving levels each year; gifted and committed staff as well as a large and committed group of parishioner "lay ministers" (I am reluctant to refer to these people, and their offerings, as "volunteers"); a beautiful building and inviting grounds; wonderful music for Sunday morning and evensong worship as well as a number of concerts through the year; and a wide range of programs serving the parish through parish life and Christian formation, and the community at large through Outreach and our Diocesan pledge.

That being said, 2008 has been a challenging year.

With the drop in the financial markets, our endowment values dropped sufficiently that we did not draw upon general endowment funds for operations in 2008 and are not likely to draw upon general endowment funds in 2009. As a result, our operating budget revenues were \$145,000 short for 2008. Through conscientious cost containment and deferral of hiring to fill program, staff and sexton positions, we were able to finish the year with a deficit of approximately \$45,000 which was met by previous years' surplus funds.

We also successfully navigated a 2009 budget process beginning in July with a deficit of almost \$325,000 and working to close that deficit through a combination of cost containment and the generous Special Giving campaign. I am pleased to share that the Vestry approved an operating budget for 2009 which, if pledges are met and we are not challenged with significant unexpected expenses, will result in a modest surplus. Jehovah Jireh (meaning God provides; taken from Genesis 22:14)! Special thanks to the Christ Church First team who spearheaded the Special Giving Campaign, and all those who generously responded. The campaign is likely to deliver over \$130,000 in current giving for 2009.

In closing, a heartfelt thank you to all those who work diligently as stewards of our blessings, and to all who so generously share your time, talent and treasure.

Peace, Jean Redfield, Treasurer, CCGP